

TO: MESO Members
FROM: Shane Woolbright, Executive Director
RE: Attached Mutual Aid Agreements
DATE: December 21, 2011

Attached to this memo are two agreements for your municipal utility to execute. The first is the MESO Mutual Aid Agreement. MESO members have on three occasions in the past 25 years executed mutual aid agreements. The agreements among the adopting cities states that in case of emergency, such as tornado or high wind, cities would assist other participating cities in bringing electric service on line as soon as possible. Such assistance has occurred many times.

MESO has agreements from nearly all members on file. Most of these are nearly 10 years old. It is time to renew these agreements. It is very important for each city to execute these agreements even if you have no personnel to assist other cities. Your city needs to implement the agreement in case you ever need assistance.

FEMA, the Federal Energy Management Agency, is responsible for oversight of emergency assistance. FEMA reimburses cities for certain damages sustained such as the major tornado damage that hit the City of Stroud last year. FEMA has stated that it will not reimburse damages for electric or utility restoration work unless there is a mutual aid program in place. Therefore, we think it important for each city to adopt the new agreements.

In addition to the electric agreement, we have a second Agreement for Municipal Aid which we are enclosing. This agreement covers aid that might be given other than for power delivery. Often, after a tornado, cities need aid to clean debris or repair public works in a hurry. This agreement covers those areas. MESO Board felt such an agreement would be a smart measure for our members who might send aid other than electric personnel to a damaged location.

In addition to this agreement, MESO is negotiating a blanket agreement with rural electric cooperatives for mutual aid at this time.

For cities in the OMAG municipal liability plan, you need not check with them on any liability questions as your coverage will extend to work you do under this agreement. Others may want to check with their carriers again. Most carriers desire such aid agreements to be in place as part of a city's disaster preparedness plan.

Please note that the agreement does not require you to respond. It only outlines the conditions under which you respond and outlines the conditions binding upon you should you request aid. The majority of MESO members have needed outside aid or had outside aid on standby since I began my work here. It is quite important to have that aid available.

Upon acceptance of the agreement by your utility or city, send one copy back to MESO and retain one for your files. Please include the names and phone numbers of those in your city who may accept or deny requests for emergency assistance.

Please attempt to have the agreements approved and returned to MESO by June 1st. Please contact me with any questions you may have.